



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

JOHN G. ROWLAND
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2003

Contact: Michele Sullivan
(860) 524-7313

**GOVERNOR ROWLAND APPOINTED
TO HOMELAND SECURITY PANEL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - United States Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge today announced the appointment of Governor John G. Rowland and twelve other national leaders as members of the State and Local Officials Senior Advisory Committee to the President's Homeland Security Council.

"I am grateful that these accomplished and experienced citizens are willing to serve and provide valuable insights on critical homeland security issues," said Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge. "By bringing together members from diverse public and private sector backgrounds, these members will provide recommendations that will help DHS more effectively integrate our nation's effort to make the homeland more secure."

The purpose of this committee is to provide the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council with advice on improving national security efforts from experts representing state and local government.

"I am truly honored by the confidence that President Bush and Secretary Ridge have shown in me by way of appointment to this very important advisory committee," said Governor Rowland. "I will do my best to represent the views of not only Connecticut, but first responders from across our great nation. Nothing is more important than the security of our nation."

In August of 2001, Governor Rowland set the standard for many states by creating his own Domestic Preparedness Senior Steering Council to advise him on terrorism response issues and a Division of Protective Services within the Connecticut Department of Public

-MORE-

Safety, the forerunner of the current Division of Homeland Security. The Division of Homeland Security now includes special units dealing with intelligence gathering, critical infrastructure protection, and grants management. Connecticut has also created a State Anti-terrorism Task Force to better coordinate information with local law enforcement agencies and is developing Urban Search and Rescue and Disaster Medical Response Teams.

Connecticut has secured over \$36.5 million to date in federal homeland security funding with a large percentage of the funding being used to purchase response equipment for local first responders. Connecticut has obligated approximately 80 percent of all Department of Homeland Security equipment grant funding received to date.

“I’m extremely proud of our efforts on behalf of Connecticut’s dedicated first responders,” said Governor Rowland. “Our focus has been on giving them the tools they need and not overburdening municipalities with administrative requirements. However, this is much more work to be done. My service on this committee will help keep local needs at the forefront of the national homeland security agenda.”

The State and Local Senior Advisory Committee also includes representatives from the National Governors Association, the Council of State Governments, the United States Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the International City-County Managers Association.

Governor Michael Leavitt of Utah will serve as chair of the Advisory Committee.

Governor Rowland is expected to be formally sworn in to the Advisory Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting in October. Effective immediately, he will participate in all committee business and teleconferences.

